Blaenavon
Urban District Council.

Medical Officer's Annual Report
for the year 1937.

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The Urban District Council of Blaenavon.

Medical Officer's Annual Report

For the Year 1937.

8th August, 1938.

Miss Lewis and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Second Annual Report regarding the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Blaenavon for the year ended December 31st, 1937, and made in accordance with the Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health.

The area of the district amounts to 4,612 acres.

Population.

The Registrar's-General's estimate of the population at mid-year 1937, was 10,000, which shows a decrease for the year of 320, and a total decrease of 1,075 since the census of April 26th and 27th, 1931.

The causes responsible for this decrease is migration of persons from the district and a rapidly falling birth rate. The migration of persons from the area is due to lack of employment and also to the fact that as coal-mining is the chief industry, many of the younger men leave the district to take up what they consider more congenial employment in other areas. Examples of this may be seen when young men obtain employment in some of the more prosperous English districts, and finding the new employment satisfactory, and better prospects, they obtain employment for other members of their family, with the result that many families, some of whom were in employment here, have left the district and made their homes in these places.

The falling birth rate is also a very serious problem; the number of births for the year under review being 37 less than the number of deaths. If this decrease continues at its present rate, employers in the district will, in a few years time, be faced with a shortage of young employees to replace the older men; this will, to a large extent, apply to the mining industry, in which miners do not now, as was the case some years ago, encourage their sons to work in the pits.

One remarkable feature respecting this decrease in population, is that in spite of the low number of births and the large number of persons who have left the district, there is still an acute shortage of houses. This may be accounted for in there being a larger number of smaller families now, against the smaller number of very large families of years ago.

The male population, according to the last census figures, was in excess of the female population by 618. This can probably be accounted for by the number of young women who leave the district to take up domestic service in other areas.

The density of the population for the whole of the area is about two persons per acre.

The average number of persons per dwelling is slightly under 4, for the whole of the area.

There are according to the Rate Books at the end of 1937, 2,610 structurally separate dwelling-houses, of which 12 are void.

The Rateable Value of the district at the end of December, 1937, was £30,864, and the sum represented by a penny rate was £113.

Social Conditions.

I have pleasure in recording that since my previous Annual Report, there is marked improvement in the social conditions of the town. We are gradually heading towards a brighter and more prosperous Blaenavon. The Council are to be congratulated on the good work they have accomplished and are accomplishing. I have watched with interest the improvements in our roads and main streets. Good work has been done in this direction. I am pleased to see this healthy town on the hill top gradually becoming more modern and progressive.

The pit-head baths at Garnyrerw are well appreciated and will shortly be supplemented by others at Big Pit. Blaenavon is among the pioneers of this modern amenity for the Eastern Valley.

Blaenavon has many advantages—the health giving qualities of its bracing mountain air, are now well known, and Tourists should be encouraged to visit the district. We hear much nowadays of encouraging Tourist traffic to Monmouthshire, but visitors will not come to these parts unless we can provide them with the same privileges and amenities as are obtained elsewhere. I am glad to know that a Boys' Club has been formed in Blaenavon, and this should help the young people to pass their leisure time in a more profitable manner.

I sometimes think that the lack of social life and the greater freedom in other towns is a contributory cause to the migration of our younger generation. If the young people are provided with work under more congenial surroundings, having better and brighter homes to live in, I feel sure that the rush to other larger towns can be stemmed.

Blaenavon is the gateway to some of the finest scenery in Wales; with a little vision it could be easily developed as a Tourists' Centre. The beauties of the town and its surroundings certainly deserve to be better advertised. A scheme of afforestation would provide employment, as well as add to the town's amenities.

The chief industry so far is coal mining which for a number of years has given regular employment to a large number of persons living in the district, and in adjoining areas.

The other industries are—(1) a tyre mill for the manufacture of tyres for railway vehicles; (2) a coal by-product plant which in addition to manufacturing the ordinary coal by-products, produces large quantities of coal gas for the purpose of lighting and heating, as far as Blaina in the Western Valley and Pontypool and other places in the Eastern Valley; (3) a tar macadam plant for the production of material for road construction, concrete slabs, posts, curbing, channelling, etc., for various purposes This plant is operated by Messrs. Wm. Prestwich & Sons

The erection of the new plant adjoining the Tyre Mill is indeed a pleasing and welcome sight. This plant which covers a large area is for the manufacture of axles and wheels for railway vehicles, and when in full swing, will provide employment for about 300 persons. These industries are controlled by the Blaenavon Company Ltd.

It is to be hoped that this new work will be the beginning of a new era of prosperity for the district and the forerunner of more and yet larger industries for which Blaenavon is so well equipped, possessing as it does an abundance of coal, limestone, and road and railway facilities, and easily accessible supplies of gas and electricity.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

Live Births, 134; Legitimate, M. 67; F. 60
Illegitimate, M. 3; F. 4

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13.4.

Still Births, 12; Legitimate, M. 3; F. 8.
Illegitimate, M. 1; F. 0.

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population, 1.2.

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still births), 82.19.

Deaths, 171. Males, 91. Females, 80.

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 17.1

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, 11.
Legitimate, M. 5; F. 6.
Illegitimate, M. 0; F. 0.

Infant Death Rate per 1,000 births registered, 82.08.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	8
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)		...	Nil

Deaths from Puerperal causes:—

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	Nil
Other Puerperal causes	...	...	1

There were no unusual or excessive mortality during the year requiring special comment.

Causes of Sickness or Invalidity Noteworthy of Attention in the Area during the Year.

There were no causes of sickness or invalidity requiring special comment.

General Provisions of Health Services in the Area.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

The Public Health Staff consists of myself as Medical Officer of Health (part time), and a whole time Sanitary Inspector who holds the qualifying certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and their special certificate for Meat and Food Inspection.

Professional Nursing in the Home. A fully qualified nurse is employed for the purpose of nursing in the homes. She is employed by the local nursing association which is supported by voluntary contributions from the inhabitants and administered by an efficient local committee.

The district, owing to its hilly and scattered nature, and the severity of the weather generally experienced during the winter, makes this lady's work exceptionally hard and difficult. However, in spite of the difficulties encountered the nurse continues to be of great service, especially in the case of bed-ridden and invalid persons, and her services are greatly appreciated throughout the area.

Nursing in Infectious Cases—Non-provided.

Midwives.—There are two midwives practising in the area; they are under the control of, and are now paid by the County Council.

Laboratory Facilities.—All pathological and bacteriological examinations are made by the County Pathologist, Dr. Gwyn Rocyn Jones, at the County Laboratory, County Hall, Newport.

Ambulance Facilities.—The Blaenavon Medical Aid Society have a motor ambulance available for the removal of accident cases at the collieries and works, and for use in connection with their Hospital.

The Pontypool and District Hospital have two motor ambulances available for the conveyance of subscribers and members of their families to the Pontypool and District Hospital.

The Council do not maintain an ambulance for the purpose of dealing with accidents or other urgent disability cases.

No ambulance is provided by the Local Authority for the removal of infectious cases.

Hospitals.

No changes have taken place during the year in the hospital services, public or voluntary, within or without the area which are used by the inhabitants of the area.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

There were no important extensions of the public water supplies during the year, other than to the Horseshoe Row houses, which were not previously connected to the public supply.

The quality and quantity of the water supplied was on the whole generally satisfactory.

No samples were taken during the year from the public supplies for the purpose of chemical or bacteriological analysis.

The district's rainfall for the year was as follows:—

January	9.66 ins.	July	3.90 ins.
February	8.50 ins.	August	1.61 ins.
March	4.53 ins.	September	2.54 ins.
April	3.43 ins.	October	5.31 ins.
May	2.91 ins.	November	2.58 ins.
June	1.74 ins.	December	4.10 ins.

Total rainfall for year 50.81.

It will be seen from the above table that June and August were the two months with the lowest rainfall, and January and February the highest.

In view of the numerous complaints which have been received during the year of the unsatisfactory supply from No. 1 reservoir, newts, tadpoles, etc., frequently coming through the taps, I strongly urge that the mechanical filter be provided as soon as possible.

Again I wish to press for a proper system of filtration at Edmund's tank. The water at present supplied from this place is submitted to little, if any, filtration, and an arrangement similar to that provided for the Llanover Road Houses, at No. 4 Reservoir, would be suitable for dealing with this supply.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There were no important extensions of the sewage and drainage systems of the district during the year.

Rivers and Streams.

No action was taken during the year to check the pollution of the river, and its contributory streams. The Avon Llwyd is still an open sewer receiving crude sewage from all parts of the district.

Much preliminary surveying has been done however in connection with the new Sewerage Scheme, and it is to be hoped that the scheme will mature in the near future

Closet Accommodation.

There is little change in respect of the closet accommodation in the district since the time of the last report.

Public Cleansing.

There were no extensions or improvements during the year in the arrangements for public cleansing.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

A classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects and nuisances discovered and the action and result of action taken with regard to these will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Incorporated Report.

Shops.

The shops in the district were visited as often as possible during the year for the purposes of section 10, of the Shops Act, 1934. This section of the Act provides for the health and comfort of shop workers and the greatest difficulty encountered in the district in this respect is the failure to maintain reasonable temperatures.

Although efforts have been made to provide all shops with the apparatus and appliances necessary for the maintenance of suitable temperatures, they have not met with the desired success up to the present.

During an exceptionally cold period toward the end of the year some of the shops employing young female assistants were visited and it was found that the temperatures of these shops were little above that of the external air. It is fair to state that some means of heating was provided at most of these places, but this was totally inadequate, and what made matters considerably worse was that in these shops the doors were kept open during the whole of the working hours.

A special report was made to the Council in respect of these conditions, and the persons responsible were requested to install such appliances as are necessary to properly heat their shops, and if this is not done before the coming winter further action will be taken to enforce it.

It was not found necessary to take any legal action under the Shops Act during the year.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There is no public swimming bath owned by the local authority in the district.

There is an open air bath which has been provided by the workmen of the district in conjunction with the Miners' Welfare Association. The bath is open to the public at a charge fixed by the Committee which controls it, and when the weather permits it is largely patronised. Arrangements have also been made for the use of the bath for the school children of the district who attend at fixed times throughout the summer months.

The bath is well maintained and in charge of a capable attendant, and the plant which has been installed for the purpose of purifying and chlorinating the water is working satisfactorily.

Periodical visits were made to the bath by the Sanitary Inspector during the season and everything was found to be in order.

The Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No systematic action has been taken for the eradication of bed bugs from houses in the district. However when it comes to the knowledge of the Health Department that a house is infested, either as the result of house inspection or upon complaint, every assistance is given to rid the house of the trouble.

When possible, and in cases of bad infestation, the Sanitary Inspector visits the house and supervises the work of disinfestation, which is carried out by fumigation or spraying with one or other of the insecticides. In consequence of the lack of an experienced staff which is essential if this work is to be efficiently carried out, very little systematic disinfestation has been carried out. What is customary in the district is to supply the occupants of the houses with insecticides and instructions as to their use, and while this does not always bring about complete eradication, it does in most cases give a large amount of relief.

The number of houses found to be infested was as follows:—

Council Houses, 9. Other Houses, 20.

No action was taken in respect of the belongings of tenants to ensure their freedom from vermin before removal into Council houses.

Schools.

The schools in the district were visited at various times during the year and the nuisances and defects found were reported to the appropriate quarter and satisfactorily remedied.

The water supply to the schools in the district was again generally satisfactory.

It was not found necessary to close the schools during the year on account of infectious diseases.

Housing.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 238

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 874

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations,1925 86

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 319

(3) Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 17

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 136

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices:—

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action taken by the Local Authority or their officers 80

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

(a) Proceedings taken under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 11

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners 5

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 34

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners 20

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room been rendered fit ... Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936.—Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year 78

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 119

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 574

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 5

(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	20
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	134
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

The cowsheds, dairies and milkshops were periodically visited throughout the year to ensure that the district's milk supply was produced and retailed under clean and wholesome conditions. Precautions were also taken in respect of the milk brought into the district from the adjoining areas and in a few instances it was found necessary to warn vendors in respect of the cleanliness of the vehicles used.

Thirty-six samples of milk were taken from persons producing and retailing milk in the area. These samples were submitted to the County Pathologist for the purpose of bacteriological examination. Results of these analyses were sent to the persons concerned, and where these samples were unsatisfactory, warnings were given and following up samples taken.

In one instance it was found necessary to summon the vendor before the Council to show why he should not be removed from the register. A satisfactory explanation was given and further samples taken from this person were found to be satisfactory.

No legal action was taken with regard to the Milk and Dairies Act, 1915, the Milk and Dairies Amendment Act, 1922, or the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

No dealers' licences were issued during the year in respect of Certified milk; neither are there any persons in the area producing Accredited milk. There are no pasteurising plants in the district.

Three supplementary licenses were issued during the year for the sale of pasteurised milk.

Meat and Other Foods.

The slaughterhouses, butchers' shops, and other places where foods are prepared and sold were regularly visited, and the nature and quantity of the foods surrendered and destroyed will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Incorporated Report.

It was not found necessary to take any action with regard to diseased, unsound or unwholesome food during the year.

Food Adulteration.

In respect of this matter I have pleasure in incorporating the Report of Mr. G. C. Jenkins, the County Inspector under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act. The samples and results of analysis are as follows:—

58 samples of New Milk were purchased.

3 samples of New Milk were Appeal to Cow.

1 sample was taken in course of delivery.

In addition, one sample of each of the following was taken:—

Thyme, Mixed Herbs, Olive Oil, Compound Syrup of Figs, and Compound Mustard, making a total of 67.

The Public Analyst reported that of the 58 New Milks, 11 were not up to the Standard, and the three appeal to Cow samples were also not up to the Standard.

All the other samples being genuine.

Of the Genuine Milk samples the Analyst reported them to be of reasonably good quality.

Average Fat content being 3.49 per cent.

Average Solid content being 8.81 per cent.

The percentage of Adulteration was 20.89 per cent. Action was taken as follows:—

Sample No. 60/1, 15.67 per cent. Deficient in Fat.
Sample No. 91/1, 15.33 per cent. Deficient in Fat.

Vendor Fined £2/0/0 including costs.

Sample No. 62/1, 27.00 per cent. Deficient in Fat.
Sample No. 88/1, 49.67 per cent. Deficient in Fat.

Vendor Fined £3/0/0 including costs.

Sample No. 63/1, 11.00 per cent. Deficient in Fat.
Sample No. 92/1, 4.67 per cent. Deficient in Fat.

Vendor ordered to pay £2/2/0 costs.

Sample No. 24/2, Deficient in Solids and Fats.
Sample No. 25/2, Deficient in Solids and Fats.
Appeal to Cow sample was abnormal.

Vendor Cautioned by Clerk of Council.

Sample No. 30/2, 10.33 per cent. Deficient in Fat.
Appeal to Cow sample was abnormal.

Vendor Cautioned by Clerk of Council.

Sample No. 31/2, 9.00 per cent. Deficient in Fat.

Sample No. 32/2, 8.33 per cent. Deficient in Fat.
Appeal to Cow sample was abnormal.

Vendor Cautioned by Clerk of Council.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

When the necessity arises the chemical and bacteriological examination of food is carried out by the Staff of the County Laboratory, County Hall, Newport.

Nutrition.

Dissemination of Knowledge.

No action was taken with regard to this matter during the year.

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

1. Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises	No. of Inspections made	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	2	Nil	Nil
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	55	Nil	Nil
Total ...	57	Nil	Nil

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector
Defects under Public Health Acts ...	Nil	Nil	Nil

Prevalence and Control of Infectious and Other Diseases.

Infectious Diseases Generally.—The prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during the year ended December 31st, 1937, will be seen from the appended table :—

Twelve cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year; there were no deaths resulting from this disease. This disease at the present time is of a very mild type and calls for but little comment.

One case of Diphtheria was notified. It is very gratifying to have only one case of this disease notified during the whole of the year.

No cases of Pneumonia were notified; there were three deaths from this disease. It is apparent that notifications for this disease are not being sent in; this matter has been taken up with the local practitioners, and I am hoping that all cases will be notified in future.

One case of Erysipelas was notified.

Measles is not a notifiable disease in the area; there were a number of cases in the district during the year, but I am pleased to report, no deaths occurred from this cause.

There were no deaths from Influenza during the year.

No cases of Enteric Fever, Dysentry or Malaria were notified.

With the exception of Small Pox, no hospital accommodation is available for cases of infectious diseases.

Pathological and Bacteriological specimens are examined and reported upon by the County Pathologist.

No use was made of the Dick or Schick tests, nor the artificial methods of immunisation in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever.

Apart from Pneumonia and Tuberculosis, there was no deaths from infectious diseases during the year. I am also pleased to report that the number of notifications received for infectious diseases for the year is the lowest on record.

Cleansing and Disinfection of Verminous Persons, Belongings, etc.

No cleansing station is provided, nor provision made for the cleansing of verminous persons and their belongings. Dirty and verminous houses are cleansed and disinfected when necessary, and verminous bedding etc., is disinfected by steam at the Disinfecting Station.

Rats and Mice Destruction.

5,000 baits were laid during the year for the purpose of rat destruction. As in previous years the greater number of these were placed in the main sewer. The remainder were laid in stables, pig-stys, etc., throughout the district. Much good work has been done along the banks of the river by the use of dogs and ferrets, and many rats have been accounted for in this way, by the owners of the animals who do this work gratuitously.

There has been little trouble at the refuse dumps in the district from rat infestation.

Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year, in Age Groups.

Disease.	Under 1 Year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over	Totals
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	1	2	4	2	...	1	...	1	...	12
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Totals	...	...	1	1	3	4	2	...	1	...	2	...	14

Three deaths from Pnumonia were registered, but none of these were notified.

There were no deaths from any other notifiable diseases (except Tuberculosis).

Ward Distribution of Infectious Disease Notified.

	East Ward	Central Ward	West Ward
Diphtheria	...	1	...
Scarlet Fever	3	4	5
Erysipelas	...	1	...
Totals	3	6	5

Tuberculosis.

During the year 20 cases of Pulmonary tuberculosis, and one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified; these cases show an increase of twelve in the number of cases notified in 1936.

Eleven deaths were notified from pulmonary tuberculosis against three for the year 1936. The number of deaths from tuberculosis for the year was somewhat high, and much above the previous year, but it must be remembered that the number of deaths for 1936 was exceptionally low.

The King Edward VII. Welsh National Memorial Association has an Institute at Park Buildings, Pontypool, where patients of private medical practitioners are seen on Tuesdays and Thursdays by Dr. A. Carveth Johnson and Dr. Godby, the tuberculosis physicians.

All cases notified are made the subject of inquiry, and a report is made to the Association in accordance with Form T.I. Wales.

There was one non-notified tuberculosis death during the year.

No action for the compulsory removal of tuberculosus persons under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, became necessary.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

Age Periods	New Cases					Deaths				
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1— 5	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5—15	...	6	...	...	6	...	1	...	...	1
15—25	...	3	1	...	4	1	3	...	...	4
25—35	2	5	...	...	7	2	3	...	..	5
35—45	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1
45—55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—65	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
65 and over	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	3	16	1	...	20	3	8	...	...	11

MONTHLY NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS.

Month	Total	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F
January ...	3	...	3	...	...
February ...	0	..	...	...	...
March ...	2	...	2	...	...
April ...	3	1	2	...	...
May ...	2	1	1	...	...
June ...	1	...	...	1	...
July ...	...	...	...	...	...
August ...	2	...	2	...	...
September ...	...	...	...	...	...
October ...	5	1	4	...	...
November ...	...	...	...	...	...
December ...	2	...	2	...	...
Total ...	20	3	16	1	...

Causes of Death in the Blaenavon Urban District, 1937.

As Furnished by the Registrar-General.

		Males	Females
	All Causes	91	80
1.	Typhoid Fever and para-typhoid ...	—	—
2.	Measles	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	—	—
6.	Influenza	—	—
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
8.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—
9.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	7
10.	Other Tuberculosis	1	—
11.	Syphilis	—	—
12.	General Paralysis of the Insane, etc.	1	—
13.	Cancer	2	6
14.	Diabetes	1	—
15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc. ...	12	12
16.	Heart Disease	27	18
17.	Aneurysm	—	—
18.	Other circulatory diseases ...	2	1
19.	Bronchitis	8	10
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	3	—
21.	Other respiratory diseases ...	2	2
22.	Peptic ulcer	1	1
23.	Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ...	—	—
24.	Appendicitis	—	—
25.	Cirrhosis of liver	—	1
26.	Other liver diseases	—	1
27.	Other digestive diseases	—	1
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	3	4
29.	Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
30.	Other puerperal diseases	—	1
31.	Congenital debility; premature births, etc.	4	5
32.	Senility	7	4
33.	Suicide	—	1
34.	Other violence	4	—
35.	Other defined causes	9	5
36.	Causes ill defined or unknown ...	1	—
37.	Diarrhœa (2 years and over) ...	—	—
	Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)		
	Small Pox	—	—
	Poliomyelitis	—	—
	Polioencephalitis	—	—
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age		
	Total	5	6
	Legitimate	5	6
	Illegitimate	—	—
	Live Births : Total	70	64
	Legitimate	67	60
	Illegitimate	3	4
	Still Births : Total	4	8
	Legitimate	3	8
	Illegitimate	1	—
	Resident Population (mid-year 1937)		10,000

VITAL STATISTICS.

Year	Birth Rate		Death Rate		Infant Mortality per 1,000	
	Blaenavon	England and Wales	Blaenavon	England and Wales	Blaenavon	England and Wales
1920	25.58	25.4	16.21	12.4	104.61	80
1921	25.7	22.4	12.3	12.1	101.12	83
1922	22.2	20.6	13.43	12.9	118.88	77
1923	20.83	19.7	13.04	11.6	107.4	69
1924	21.57	18.8	16.08	12.2	127.2	75
1925	20.64	18.3	12.55	12.2	100	75
1926	16.85	17.8	10.67	11.6	59.6	70
1927	13.6	16.7	13.27	12.3	132.9	69
1928	16.38	16.7	11.67	11.7	60.6	65
1929	16.06	16.3	12.9	13.4	57.29	74
1930	16.23	16.3	12.17	11.4	67.01	60
1931	14.86	15.8	13.69	12.3	90.3	66
1932	16.1	15.3	13.8	12.0	89.8	65
1933	13.44	14.4	14.71	12.3	88.43	64
1934	17.33	14.8	14.45	11.8	53.47	59
1935	13.18	14.7	11.95	11.7	35.71	57
1936	14.05	14.8	15.5	12.1	110.3	59
1937	13.4	14.9	17.1	12.4	82.08	58
		County of Monmouth.				
1925		21.5		10.0		83.8
1926		20.3		9.3		66.1
1927		17.5		11.0		87.3
1928		18.3		10.9		72.29
1929		17.8		11.3		67.7
1930		17.6		10.2		64.9
1931		17.68		12.01		71.9
1932		17.1		11.1		76.1
1933		16.29		11.49		71.72
1934		16.49		11.7		57.4
1935		16.12		11.5		61.4
1936		15.9		12.2		61.7
1937		15.5		12.6		63.9

Ages of Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.

Under 1 week	5
1 to 2 weeks	2
2 to 3 weeks	2
3 to 4 weeks	0
Total under 1 month	9
1 to 3 months	1
3 to 6 months	1
6 to 9 months	0
9 to 12 months	0
Total under 12 months	11

Causes of Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.

Prematurity	7
Bronchitis	2
Marasmus	1
Spina Bifida	1
Total	11

Conclusion.

In my last Annual Report, I drew your attention to the following improvements, all of which, I consider are still necessary and call for your careful consideration:—

(1) The provision of more dwelling-houses for the purpose of Slum Clearance and the abatement of Overcrowding.

(2) The provision of a Public Slaughterhouse.

(3) The provision of a Refuse Destructor, or Controlled Tipping.

(4) The provision of an Infectious Diseases Hospital, or the use of one with an adjoining authority.

(5) A proper system of Sewage Disposal.

(6) The installation of a Mechanical Filter at No. 1 Reservoir, and the provision of a suitable and efficient filter at Edmund's Tank.

(7) The replacement of all defective and obsolete street gullies with modern deep seal gullies.

(8) The putting into proper sanitary condition of the Public Conveniences at Prince Street and Llanover Road; and the provision of new ones at Forge Side, Garnyrerw, and Cwmavon Road.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. J. CROWE, M.O.H.,

Blaenavon.

Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
Blaenavon, Mon.,
January, 1938.

To the Medical Officer of Health, and
the Chairman, Councillor Miss Lewis, and Members of
the Blaenavon Urban District Council.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

Mr. Chairman, Councillor Miss Lewis and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report of the work accomplished by the Public Health Department for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

Occupational Incidence of New Cases Notified During Year.

MALE CASES	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
Colliers	1	1	2
Unemployed	1	0	1
Police Officer	1	0	1
TOTAL ...	3	1	4

FEMALE CASES	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
Housewives	3	0	3
Domestic Servants ..	5	0	5
Nurse	1	0	1
Shop Keeper	1	0	1
School Girls	6	0	6
TOTAL ...	16	0	16

Comparison of Notifications and Deaths from Tuberculosis during the past Five Years.

YEAR	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
1933					
Notifications	8	9	9	6	32
Deaths	2	5	1	2	10
1934					
Notifications	6	8	3	2	19
Deaths	2	4	1	0	7
1935					
Notifications	4	5	4	3	16
Deaths	1	3	1	2	7
1936					
Notifications	4	2	0	2	8
Deaths	1	1	0	1	3
1937					
Notifications	3	16	1	0	20
Deaths	3	8	0	0	11

Eight deaths occurred during the year from Cancer (malignant disease); this shows a decrease of two over the previous year.

Of these deaths, six were females showing an average age of 65 years, and two males with an average age of 61 years.

Two of the female deaths were due to cancer of stomach (ages 59 and 64), one was due to cancer of breast (age 64), one was due to cancer of the uterus (age 67), one was due to cancer of pancreas (age 76) and one to cancer of rectum (age 54); the male deaths were caused by one cancer of stomach (age 72) and the other to cancer of intestines (age 51).

Suspected cases of cancer are treated at the local hospital, and sent to Pontypool, the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport and other Institutions for further diagnosis and treatment.

No action was taken to remedy any deficiencies and to impress upon the inhabitants by printed announcements, lectures and otherwise, the vital importance of early treatment of this disease.

Table of Comparison—Cancer Deaths during the past Five Years

Compared with the Number of Deaths during the same period from Tuberculosis.

Year	Deaths from Cancer			Deaths from Tuberculosis		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1933 ...	6	7	13	3	7	10
1934 ...	6	3	9	3	4	7
1935 ...	6	3	9	2	5	7
1936 ...	6	4	10	1	2	3
1937 ...	2	6	8	3	8	11

From the above table it will be seen that for the years 1933, 1934, 1935 and 1936, the deaths from cancer exceeded those from tuberculosis but for the year under review the deaths from tuberculosis are in excess of cancer by three.

Another point worthy of note is that the female deaths from tuberculosis are higher than the males; while in the case of cancer the male deaths with the exception of 1933 and 1937, are in excess of the female deaths for the same period.

Dwelling Houses measured for the purpose of the Overcrowding Act,	166
Dwelling Houses Re-visited Overcrowding Act	129
Dwelling Houses Inspected and Recorded Housing Consolidated Regulations	86
Dwelling Houses Re-visited, ditto	319
Dwelling Houses Inspected for Housing Defects Public Health Acts	152
Dwelling Houses Re-inspected, ditto	874
Visits to Premises for nuisances other than Housing Defects	48
Re-visits to Premises for nuisances other than Housing Defects	84
Visits to Dirty and Verminous Houses	14
Cowsheds	60
Milkshops and Dairies	103
Bakehouses	34
Slaughterhouses	675
Butchers' Shops and Stalls	686
Occasional Slaughterings	115

Fish, Fruit and Vegetable Shops	52
Fried Fish Shops	49
Provision Stores and Shops	24
Shops re Shops' Act	16
Ice Cream Premises	19
Common Lodging House	32
Factories	2
Workshops	21
Schools	72
Waterworks and Water Supply	74
Urinals and Public Conveniences	341
Stables and Piggeries	97
Total	4344

Infectious Disease Prevention.

Visits to Scarlet Fever Cases	101
Tuberculosis Cases	59
Diphtheria Cases	6
Total	166

Disinfection, Cleansing and Disinfestation.

Rooms disinfected after infectious cases	71
Bedding, Clothing, etc., disinfected at the Steam Disinfector after infectious Diseases	146
Verminous Rooms fumigated and sprayed with insecticides	28

Notices Served.

Number of Informal Notices served under the Public Health Acts	160
Number of Informal Notices complied with	124
Number of Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Act	32
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	20
Number of Informal Notices served under 1936 Housing Act	Nil
Number of Informal Notices complied with	—
Number of Formal Notices served under Section 9, Housing Act	11

Number of Formal Notices complied with	5
Number of Notices served under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, to show cause re Demolition	2
Number of Notices served under Slaughterhouse Bye-laws re Limewashing	8
Number of Notices served under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, re Limewashing, etc.	16

Tabulated Account of Result of Action taken under the Public Health Acts, Housing Act, Bye-laws, etc.

Exterior.

Defective and Leaky roofs renewed, repaired and made Weatherproof	46
Chimney Stacks repaired or re-built	43
Rain-water Pipes and Eaves-Gutters repaired or renewed	38
House walls cement rendered, repointed, and water-proofed to prevent the penetration of dampness	50
Dangerous and dilapidated wash-house, boundary and other walls repaired and rebuilt	26
Yard area and passage surfaces concreted, repaved or repaired	17
Yard steps repaired or renewed	8

Interior.

Doors and frames repaired or renewed	10
Windows and frames renewed or repaired	45
Floors renewed or repaired	49
Grates and Ovens renewed or repaired	6
Window cords renewed	32
Firplaces and Chimney arches rebuilt or repaired	7
Ceilings and internal walls replastered where plaster defective and perished	41
Staircases repaired	8
Wash boilers provided or repaired	1
Water supply laid on to houses not previously supplied	3

Drainage.

Defective drains reconstructed	16
Drains repaired	4
Choked and foul drains opened and cleansed	20
New gullies provided and fixed	9

New inspection chambers provided in drains	13
New drains constructed	6
Drain inspection chambers repaired and provided with new covers	3
Sink troughs provided and fixed	10
Waste pipes from sinks and lavatory basins renewed	4
Drain ventilating pipes repaired or renewed	2
Drains tested—Water	Nil
Smoke	26

Water-Closets.

New water-closets provided for dwelling-houses, etc.	3
Water-closet buildings repaired	7
Water-closets re-constructed	4
Seats, doors and floors of water-closets repaired or renewed	25
Closet flushing cisterns renewed or repaired	16
Lighting and ventilation of water-closets improved	2
New pans and traps provided in water-closets	17
Water Closet pans cleansed	9

Miscellaneous Repairs and Nuisances Abated.

Nuisances from the keeping of animals abated	2
Overcrowding abated	20
Slaughter-houses limewashed and cleansed	8
Cowsheds limewashed and cleansed	16
Accumulations removed	1

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

For the purpose of meat inspection 675 visits were made to the slaughterhouses, and 686 visits to the butchers' shops and stalls.

Particulars of Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed ...	154	40	114	2,695	759
Number Inspected ..	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%
All Diseases except *Tuberculosis.*					
Whole Carcases condemned	...	2	...	1	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	26	8	...	114	14
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	17%	25%	...	4%	2%
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole Carcases condemned	...	...	1	...	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	6	...	...	16
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	3.2%	15%	0.8%	...	3.0%

Classification of Meat, etc., Condemned.

The following are the particulars of the meat and food surrendered and destroyed during the year :—

Beef	998 lbs.
Veal	36 lbs.
Pork	667 lbs.
Mutton	156 lbs.
Frozen Lamb	13 lbs.
Offal	1,262 lbs.

(This includes livers, lungs, heads, etc.).

Tinned Foods—Fruit 33 tins,
Meats, Brawn, etc., 16 tins.

Milk Supply.

The cowsheds, dairies and milkshops in the district were periodically visited throughout the year in order to ensure that the milk produced and retailed in the area was clean and free from contamination.

Thirty-six samples of milk were taken from persons retailing milk in the district and submitted to the County Bacteriologist for examination; the results of these samples are tabulated below :—

No. of Samples found to conform to a satisfactory standard of bacteriological purity	No. of Samples found to be satisfactory generally	No. of Samples found to be unsatisfactory
15	3	18

Numbers of Cowkeepers in the District on December 31st, 1937	15
Number of Cowkeepers on the Register December 31st, 1937	9
Number of visits to cowsheds during the year	60
Number of visits to dairies and milkshops	103
Number of Milk Purveyors on Register December 31st 1937	33
Number of Purveyors retailing in the district	24
Number bringing in milk from other areas	9

All the registered cowkeepers are purveyors of milk and are included in the above list of retailers.

Of the graded milks, Pasteurised is the only one retailed in the district.

There are no pasteurising plants in the district.

Housing.

Eighty-six houses were inspected during the year and recorded under the Consolidated Housing Regulations, and 319 re-inspections were made for this purpose. One hundred and fifty-two houses were inspected for housing defects under the Public Health Acts, and 874 re-visits were made for this purpose.

The condition of these houses was reported at the monthly meetings of the Council and Informal and Formal notices served when necessary.

Seventeen houses were, by reason of disrepair and sanitary defects, found to be so dangerous and injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation and have been included in the district's Slum Clearance Programmes.

It is very pleasing to note that preparations are being made for the erection of fifty-eight houses at Coed Wood, which is to be followed by a further sixty-two on the same site. These houses constitute the First and Second of the district's Slum Clearance programmes, which it is to be hoped will be followed by the building of further houses for Slum Clearance and Overcrowding.

I am, Miss Lewis and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WYNDHAM A. CURTIS,

Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.